

Submission
No 570

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Mrs Joanne Van Unen

Date Received: 23 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Submission: Opposition to the Proposed Parkes Waste Incinerator

From: Joanne Van Unen, Parkes resident and long-time local family

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed waste incinerator in Parkes. I would like to ask **why Parkes Shire Council did not consult with the community** over their intentions during the past 6–9 years to approve this project. The community has had little to no opportunity to be properly informed or involved in the decision-making process. It feels as though Parkes Shire Council is not supporting the ratepayers in their clear “no” vote against the proposed incinerator.

I would also like to know **who will be responsible** for:

- The **health and safety** of the community, especially our children and elderly.
- **Financial losses** due to devaluation of properties near the site.
- **Loss of income** resulting from health problems caused by emissions or contamination.
- **Relocation costs** for families who may have to move away to protect their health.
- **Medical expenses** from potential health issues linked to the incinerator.

I am especially concerned about the **proximity of the proposed incinerator to** _____, where my two grandchildren, aged _____ attend. No child should have to study and play within range of an industrial site that could release toxins into the air and water. The safety, education, and wellbeing of our young people must come first.

My family has deep roots in this area our connection to Parkes goes back to the 1800s. My ancestors helped build the foundations of the Australian economy through hard work and community spirit. Today, there are still five generations of my immediate family living in Parkes, along with many cousins and extended relatives. My two adult children both work at North Parkes Mines, my son and I purchased a home 18 months ago on the west side of town, and my 82-year-old mother also lives here. We are proud to call Parkes home and want it to remain a safe and healthy place for future generations.

This incinerator threatens not only the environment and public health but also the values that hold our community together. We deserve transparency, respect, and genuine consultation not decisions made behind closed doors.

I urge the Council and decision-makers to listen to the people of Parkes and reject this proposal. Protect our community's health, our environment, and the future of our town.

Joanne Van Unen

Parkes, NSW